



# Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 21/2025

29 May 2025

## Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 28 May 2025, tropical and polar lows brought rainfall to parts of north-western and south-eastern Australia respectively.
  - Cropping regions in New South Wales received 5-100 millimetres of rainfall, while rainfall was limited in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.
  - Low rainfall over the recent week will continue to delay the germination of dry sown winter crops in areas where upper layer soil moisture is low.
- Over the coming eight days, rainfall is expected across much of western and eastern Australia.
  - In Western Australia and Queensland, between 10-100 millimetres of rainfall is expected over the period, while lower rainfall totals are expected across parts of northern New South Wales (10- 25 millimetres). Little to no rainfall is expected across southern New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.
  - The lack of autumn rainfall continues to present a risk to the timely germination and establishment of winter crops – particularly in those areas of western Victoria and South Australia where there is low stored soil moisture.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 185 gigalitres (GL) between 22 May 2025 and 29 May 2025. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,340 GL, equivalent to 55% of total storage capacity. This is 27% or 4,486 GL less than at the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke decreased from \$314 on 22 May to \$291 on 29 May. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

# 1. Climate

## 1.1. Rainfall this week

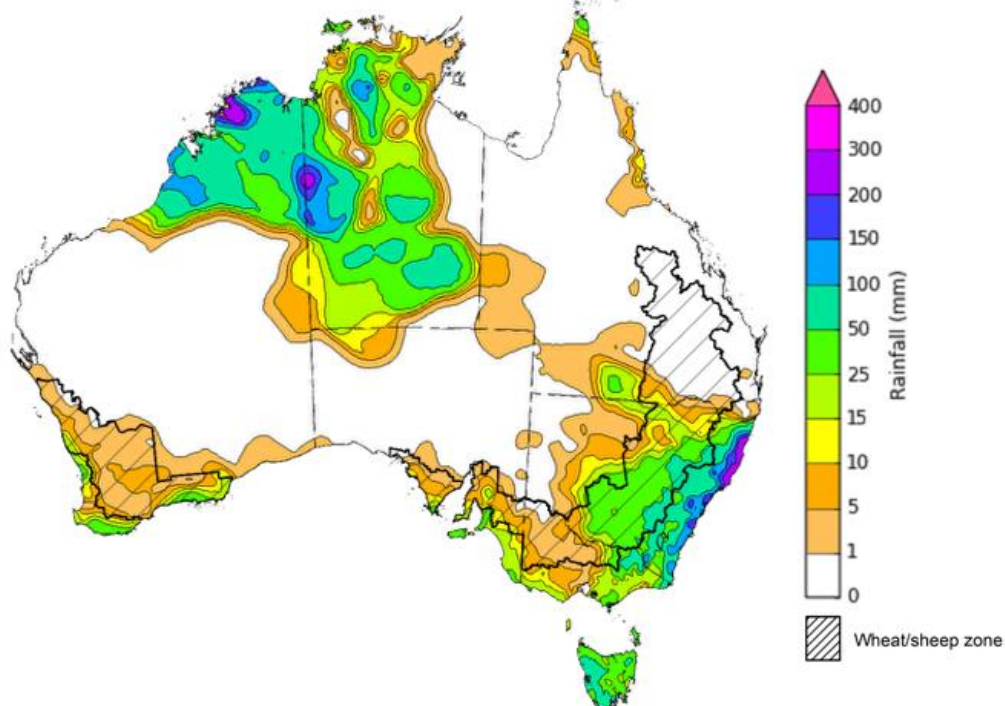
In the week ending 28 May 2025, **tropical and polar lows** brought rainfall to parts of north-western and south-eastern Australia respectively. High-pressure systems kept the remainder of Australia largely dry.

- Between 5-100 millimetres of rainfall was recorded across much of the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia, as well as eastern and central New South Wales, eastern and southern Victoria and Tasmania.
  - Isolated areas recorded as much as 300 millimetres of rainfall over the period.
- In parts of southern Queensland and southern regions of South Australia and Western Australia, rainfall totals of between 5-50 millimetres were observed.
- Remaining areas of the country received little to no rainfall over the period.

Cropping regions across the south and north received mixed rainfall in the week ending 29 May 2025.

- Rainfall totals between 5-50 and as high as 100 millimetres occurred over much of New South Wales, with highest totals recorded in eastern areas.
- In remaining southern regions, including Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, between 1-10 millimetres fell over most cropping regions.
- Queensland received little to no rainfall over the period.
- Low rainfall in the recent week will continue to delay the germination of dry sown winter crops in areas of south-eastern and Western Australia where upper layer soil moisture is low.

**Rainfall for the week ending 29 May 2025**



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Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received. For further information go to <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/>

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## 1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

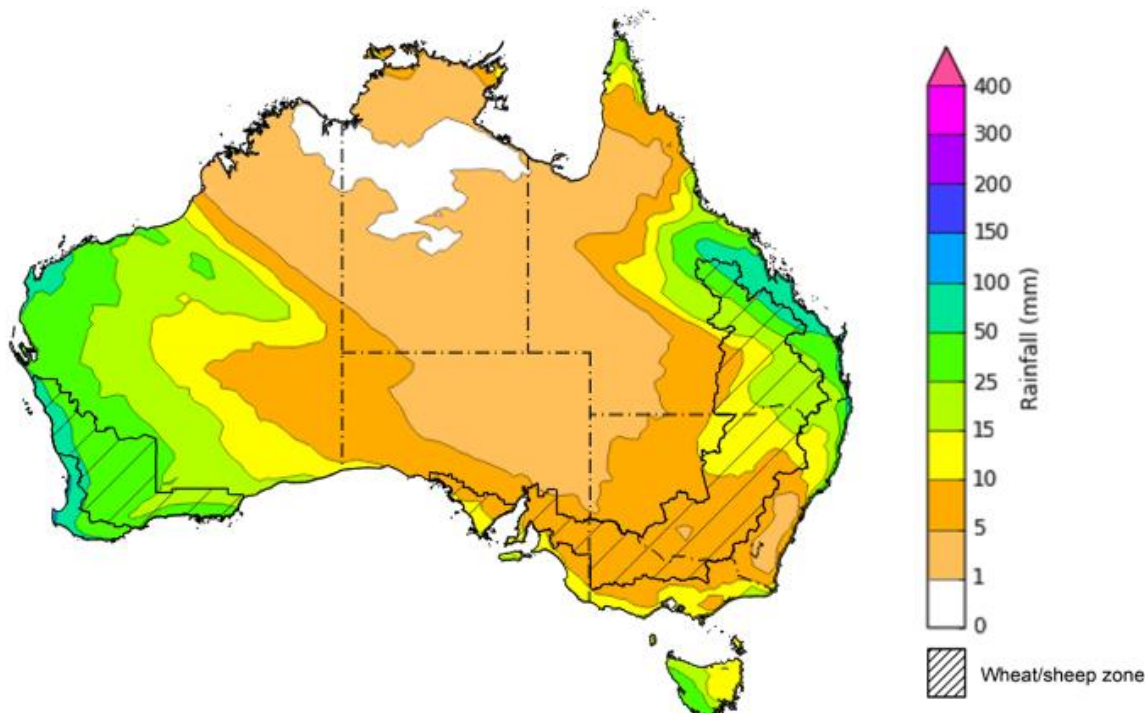
Over the 8 days to 5 June 2025, **low-pressure systems and cold fronts** are expected to bring rainfall to parts western, eastern and southern Australia.

- Large areas of western and central Western Australia and eastern Queensland are expected to see 10-100 millimetres of rainfall.
  - Meanwhile, far-north Queensland is expected to see a lower rainfall total of 10-25 millimetres.
- A low-pressure system is expected to bring 15-50 millimetres of rainfall to northern New South Wales and Tasmania, and southern areas of Victoria and South Australia.
- High-pressure systems are expected to keep most of remainder of Australia relatively dry.

Rainfall totals over the coming week are forecast to be low across south-eastern cropping regions, and higher in the west and northeast.

- In Western Australia, cropping regions are forecast to see 15-100 millimetres of rainfall, while Queensland is forecast to see 10-100, with higher rainfall totals in the north. In northern New South Wales, 10-25 millimetres of rain is expected.
- Little to no rainfall is expected across cropping zones in South Australia, Victoria, and southern New South Wales.
- If realised, the lack of autumn rainfall continues to present a downside risk to the timely germination and establishment of winter crops particularly in those areas of western Victoria and South Australia with low stored soil moisture.

**Total forecast rainfall for the period 29 May to 5 June 2025**



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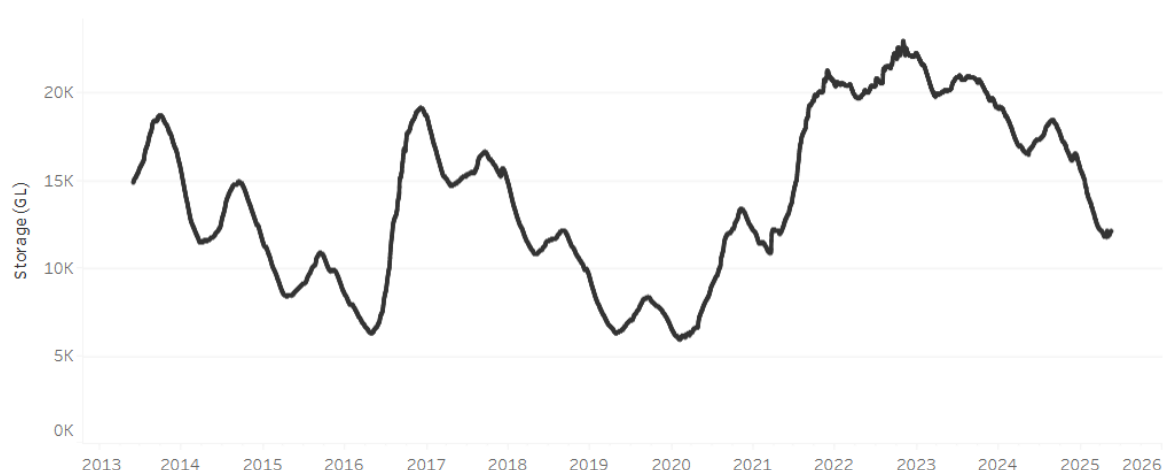
Note: This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As the model outputs are not altered by weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

## 2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 185 gigalitres (GL) between 22 May 2025 and 29 May 2025. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,340 GL, equivalent to 55% of total storage capacity. This is 27% or 4,486 GL less than at the same time last year.

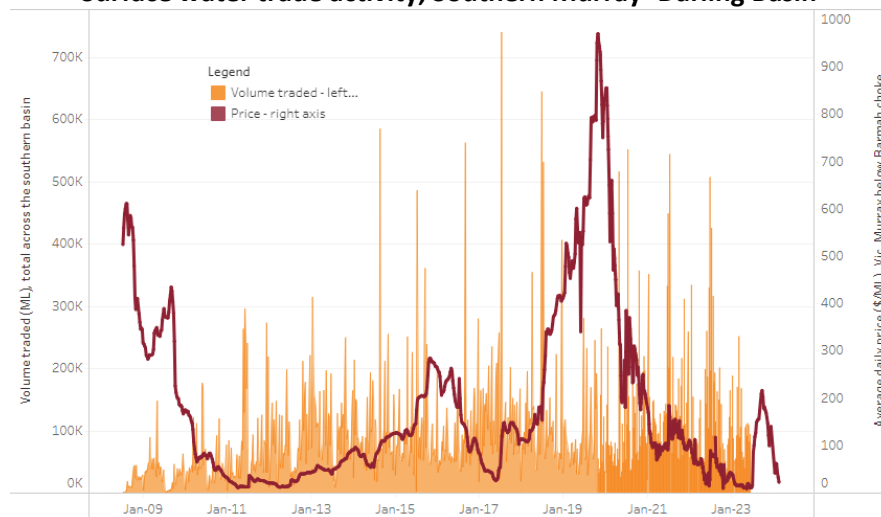
Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

**Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2025**



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke decreased from \$314 on 22 May to \$291 on 29 May. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

**Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray–Darling Basin**



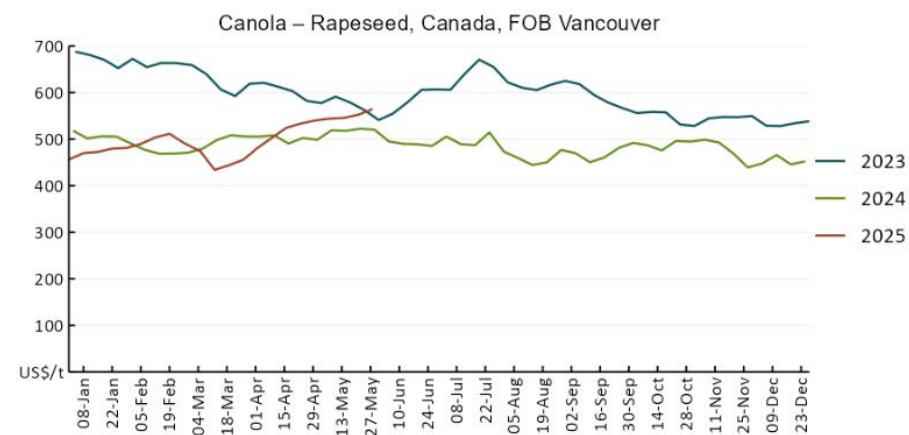
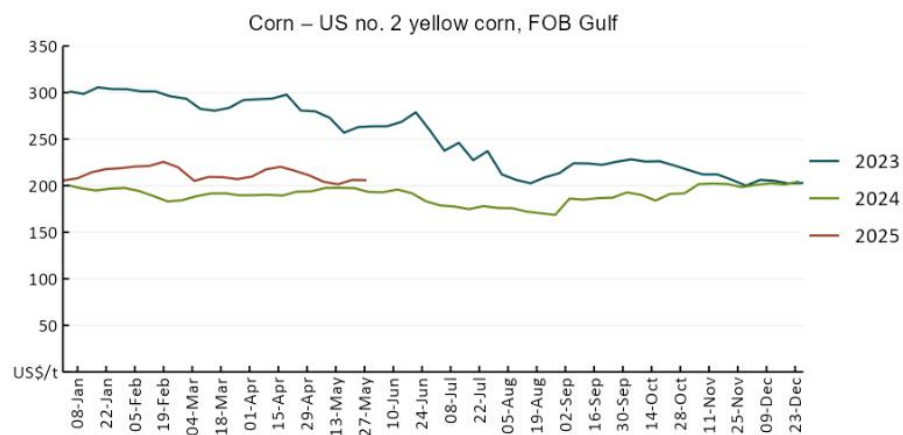
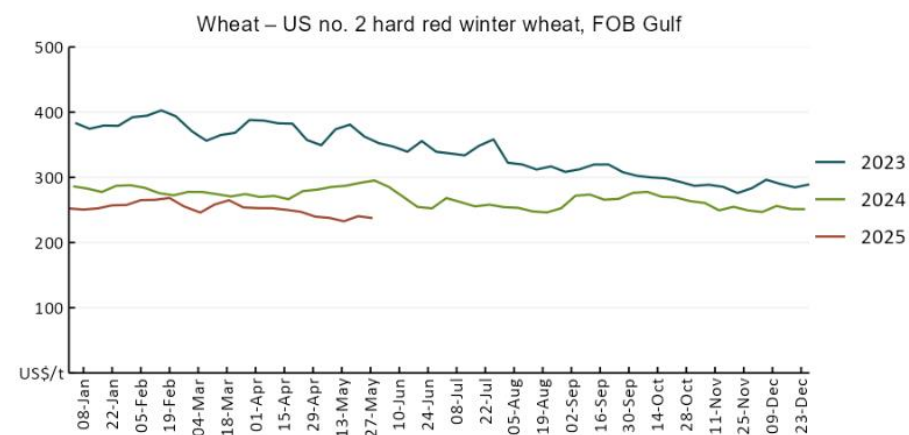
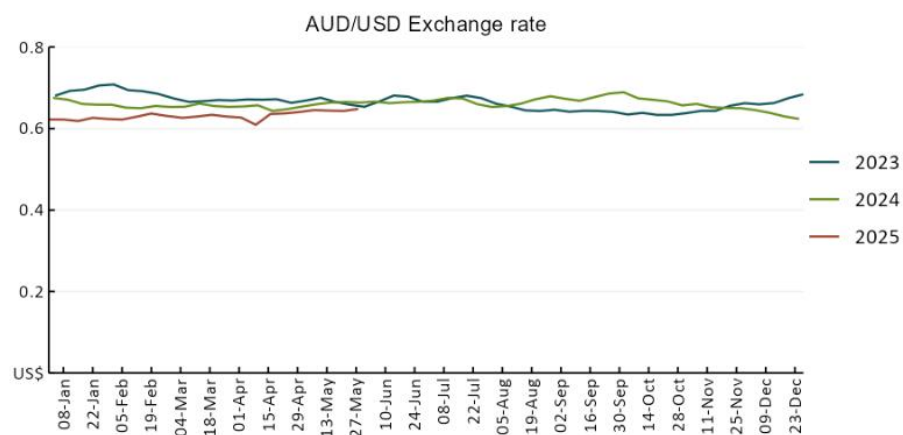
The trades shown reflect estimated market activity and do not encompass all register trades. The price is shown for the VIC Murray below the Barmah choke. Historical prices (before 1 July 2019) are ABARES estimates after removing outliers from BOM water register data. Prices after 1 July 2019 and prior to the 30 October 2019 reflect recorded transaction prices as sourced from Ruralco. Prices after the 30 October 2019 are sourced from Waterflow. Data for volume traded is sourced from the BOM water register. Only the price data shown is current on 17 October 2024.

To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit [https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly\\_update/weekly-update-290525](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-290525)

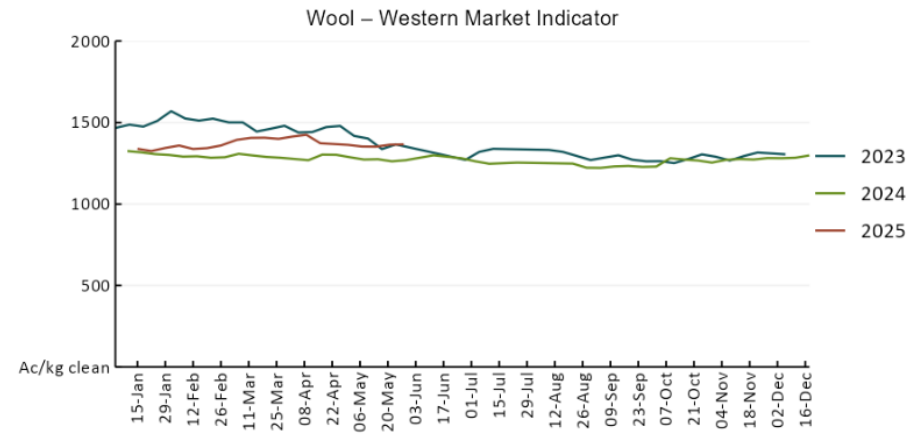
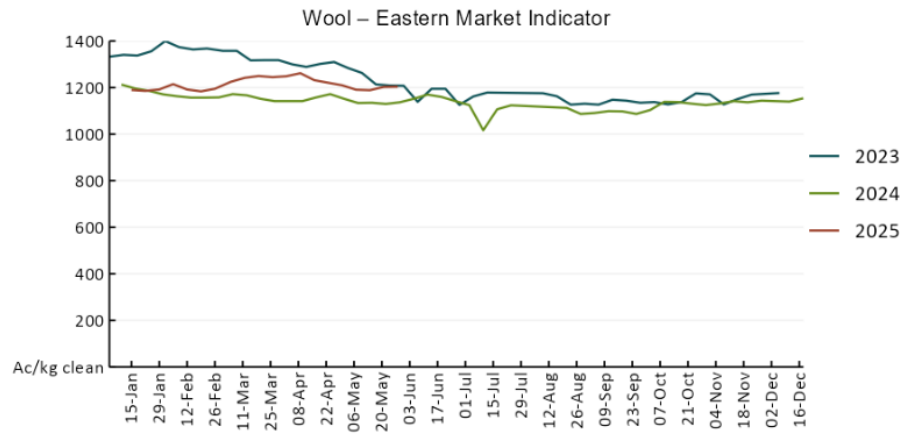
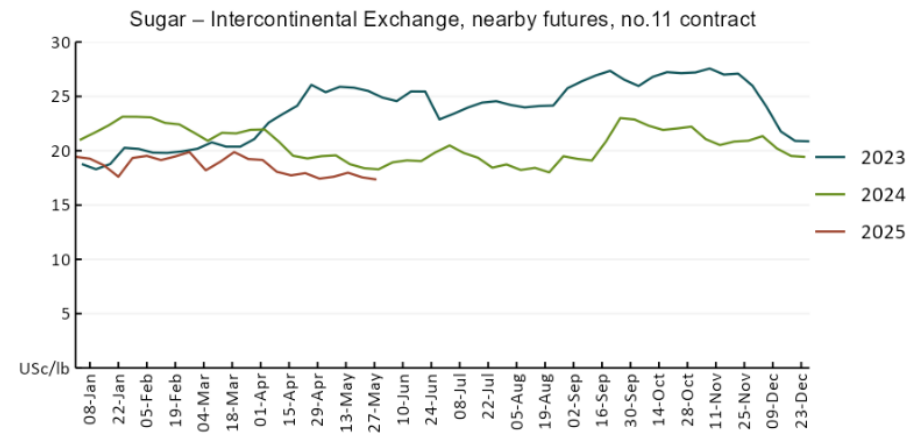
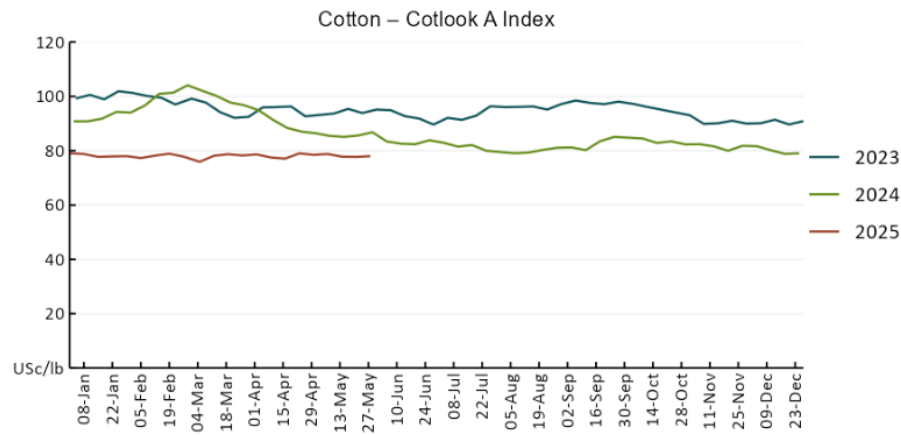
### 3. Commodities

Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
<b>Selected world indicator prices</b>							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	28-May	A\$/US\$	0.65	0.64	1%	0.66	-2%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	28-May	US\$/t	238	241	-1%	288	-18%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	28-May	US\$/t	206	206	0%	196	5%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	28-May	US\$/t	565	552	2%	516	9%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	28-May	USc/lb	78	78	0%	86	-9%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	28-May	USc/lb	17	18	-1%	19	-8%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	28-May	Ac/kg clean	1,204	1,203	0%	1,138	6%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	28-May	Ac/kg clean	1,366	1,364	0%	1,273	7%
<b>Selected Australian grain export prices</b>							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	28-May	A\$/t	396	399	-1%	417	-5%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	28-May	A\$/t	392	395	-1%	404	-3%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	28-May	A\$/t	375	377	-1%	376	0%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	28-May	A\$/t	802	798	0%	751	7%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	28-May	A\$/t	428	429	0%	451	-5%
<b>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</b>							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	28-May	Ac/kg cwt	705	680	4%	609	16%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	28-May	Ac/kg cwt	585	541	8%	284	106%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	28-May	Ac/kg cwt	910	856	6%	666	37%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	14-May	Ac/kg cwt	445	446	0%	414	8%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	28-May	Ac/kg lwt	345	345	0%	333	4%
<b>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices</b>							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	21-May	US\$/t	4,332	4,374	-1%	3,379	28%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	21-May	US\$/t	2,817	2,828	0%	2,590	9%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	21-May	US\$/t	5,007	5,519	-9%	4,248	18%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	21-May	US\$/t	7,273	7,212	1%	7,245	0%

**3.1. Selected world indicator prices**

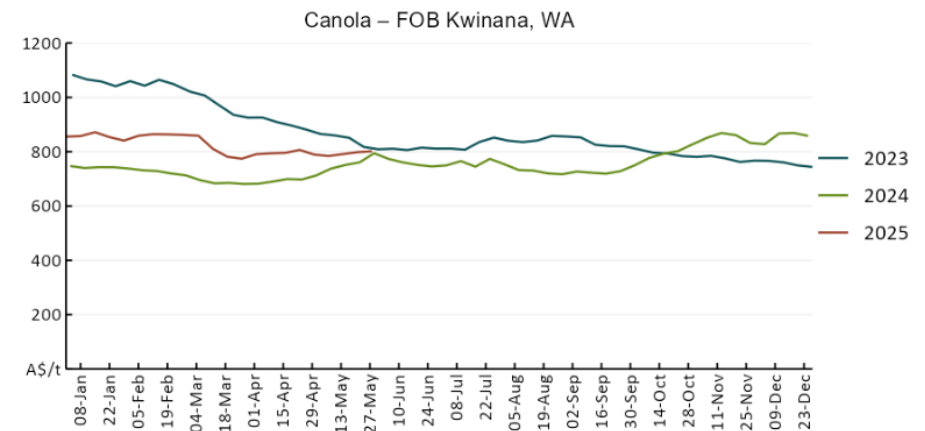
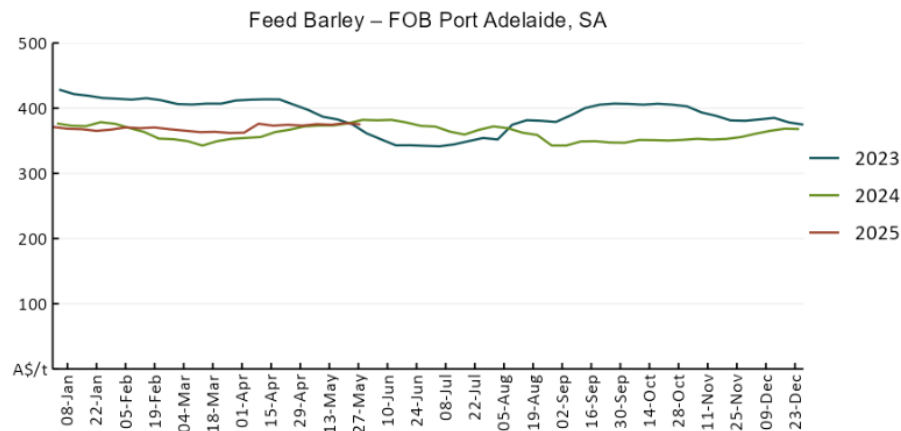
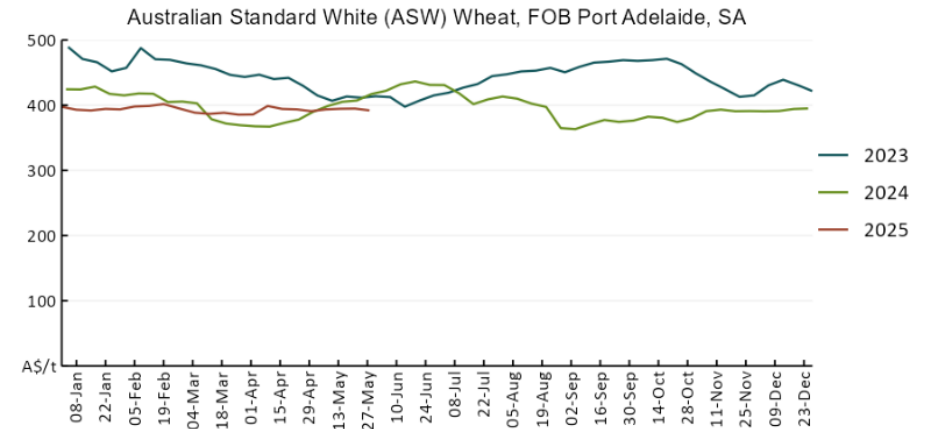
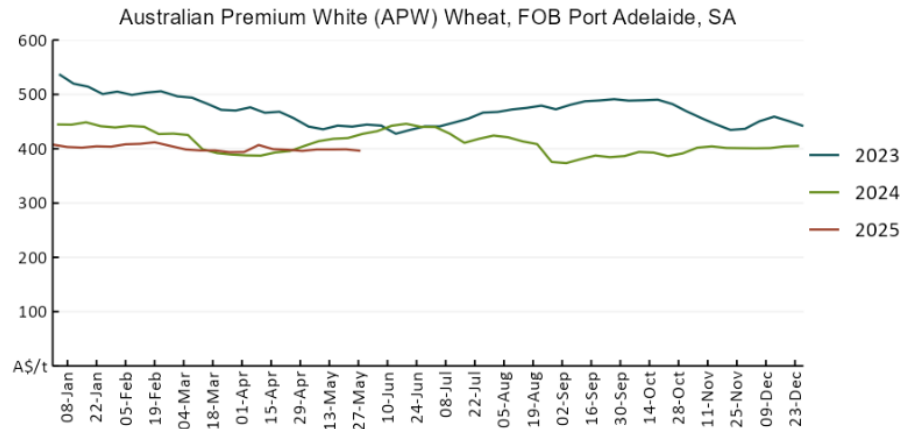


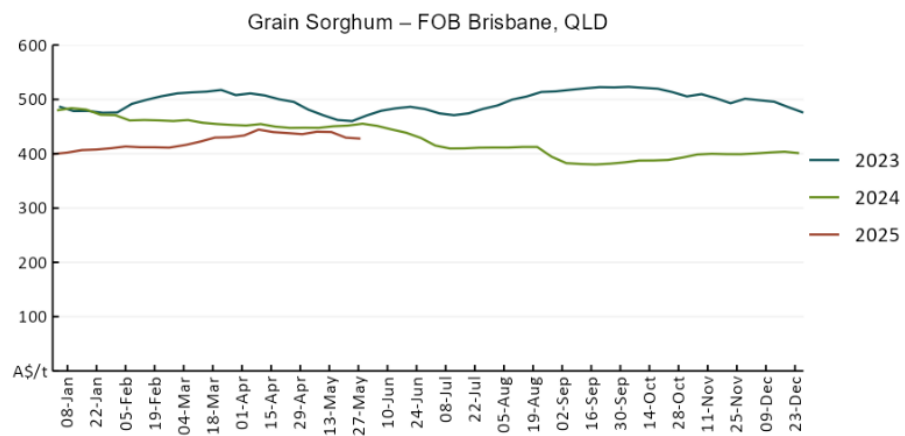




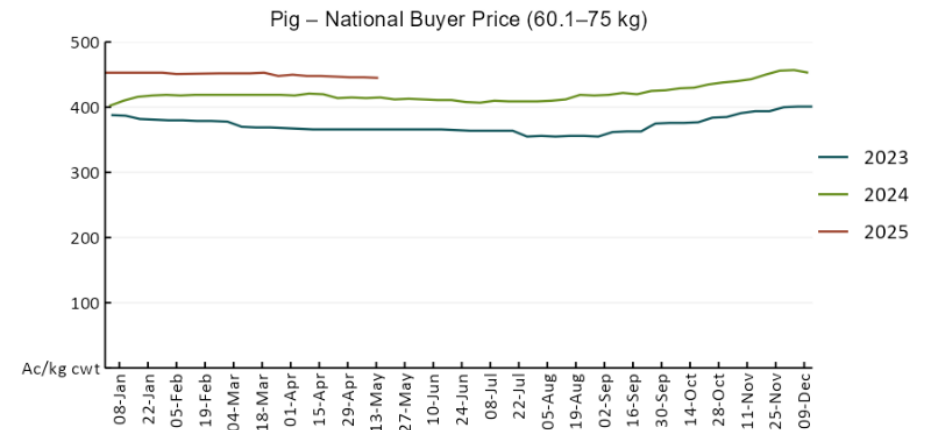
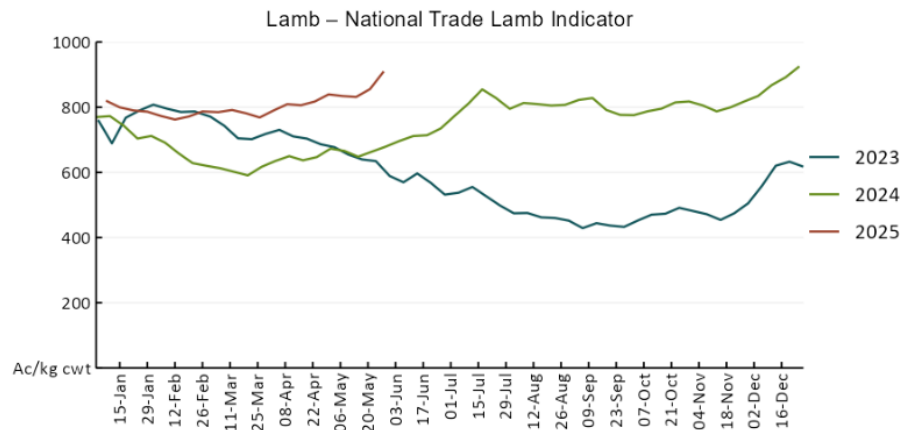
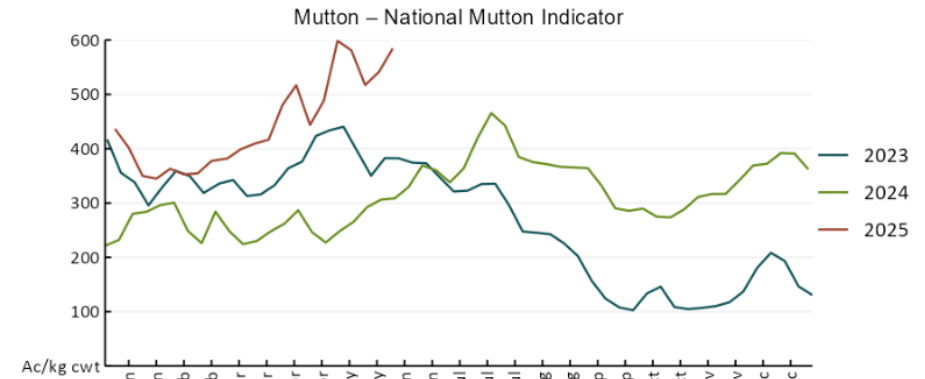
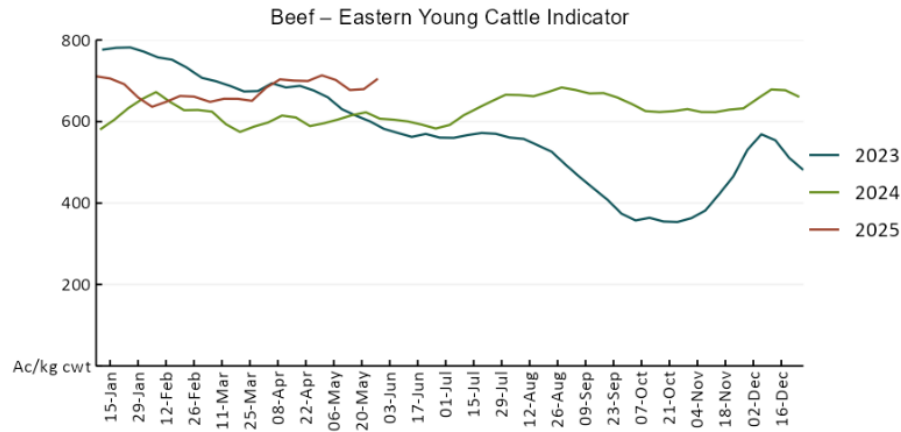


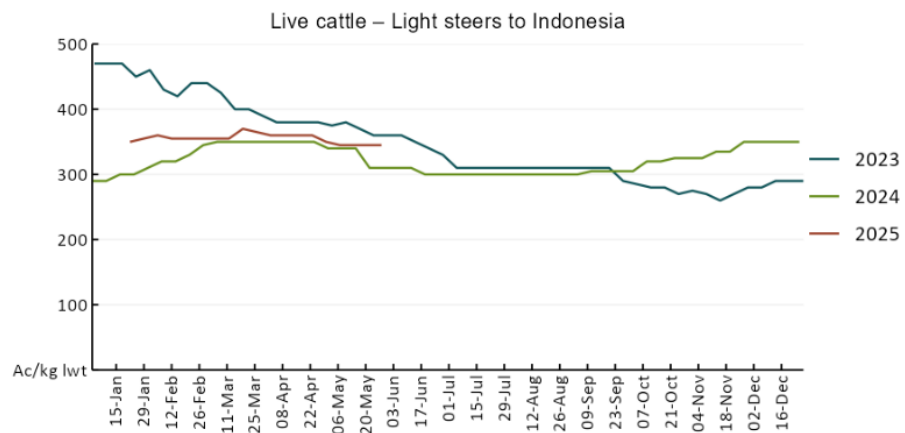
### 3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



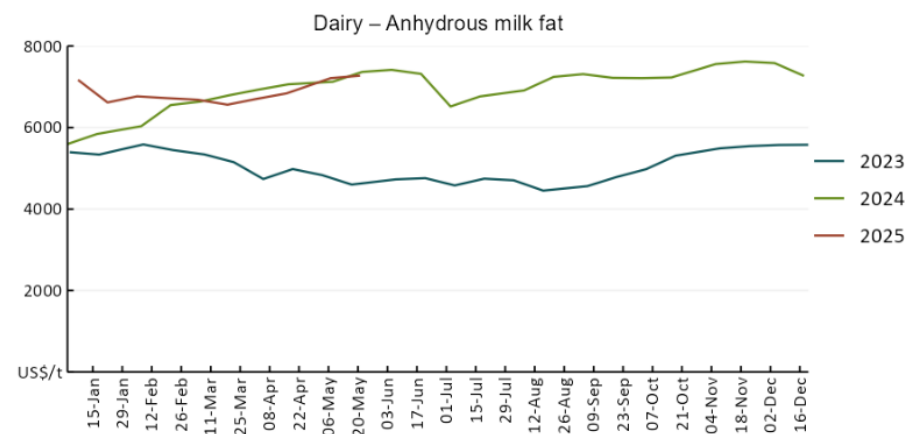
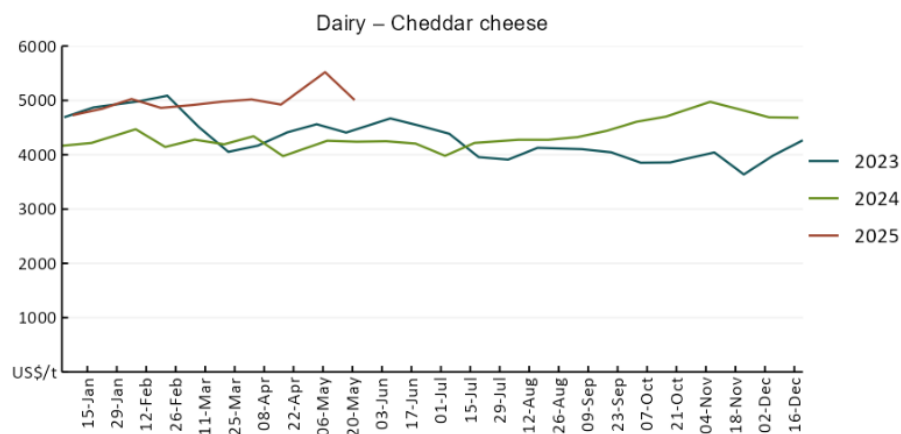
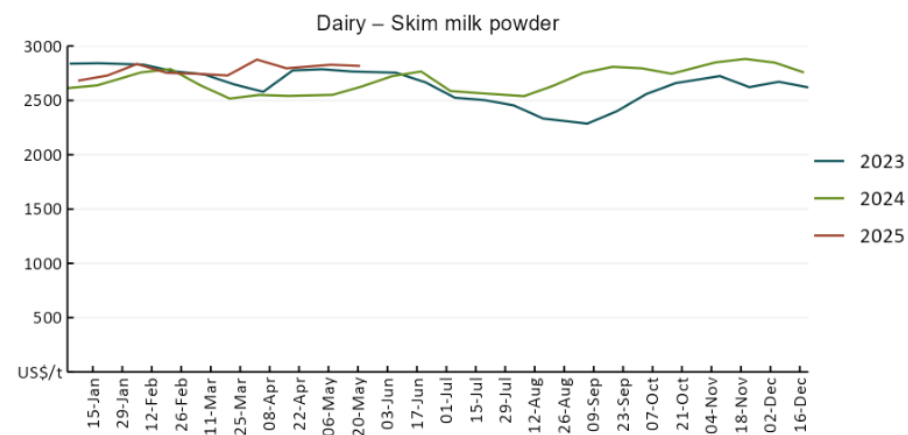
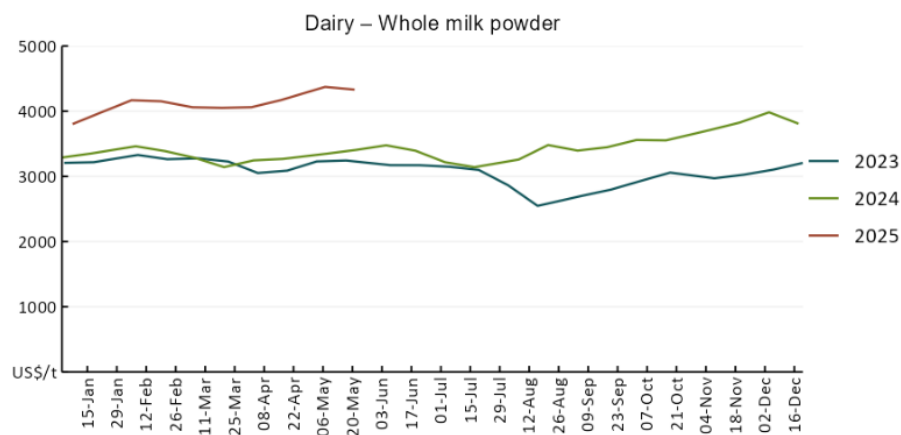


### 3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

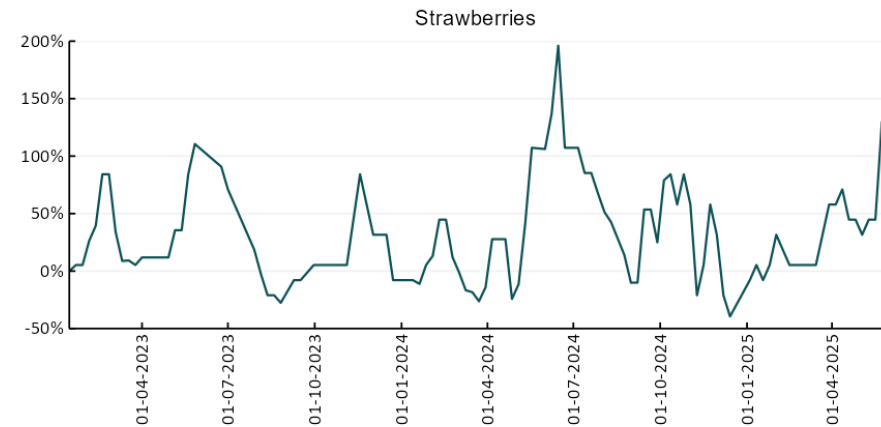
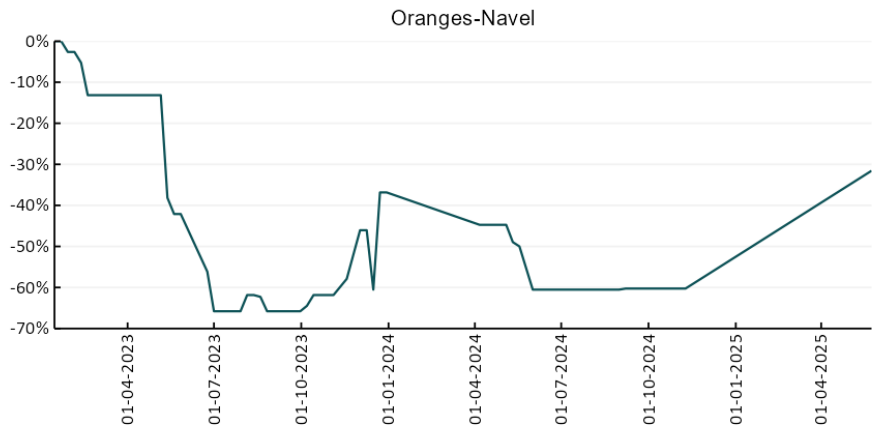
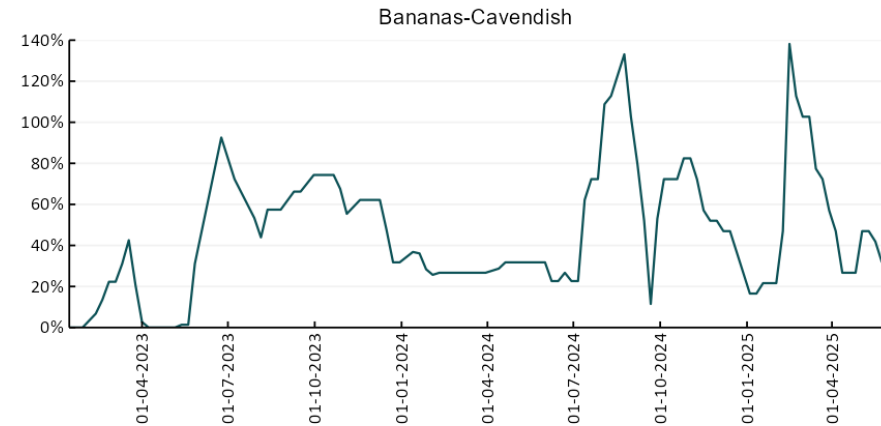
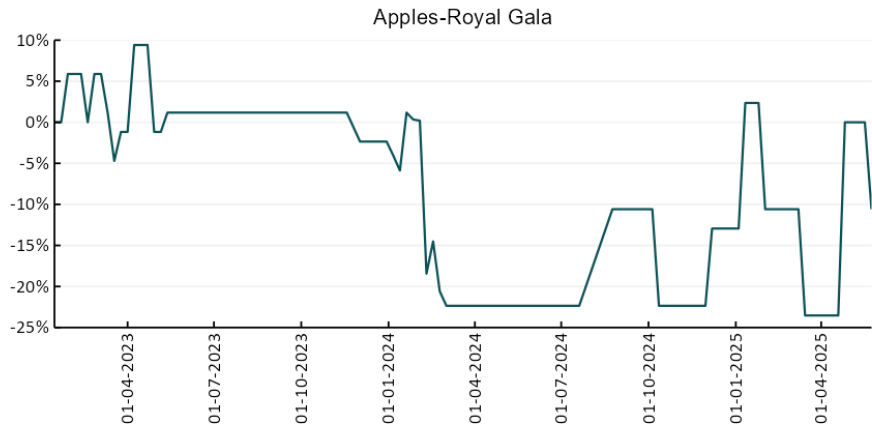


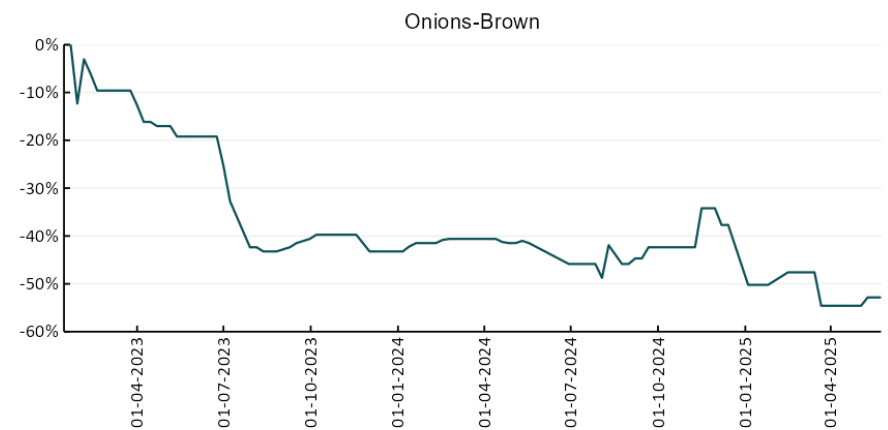
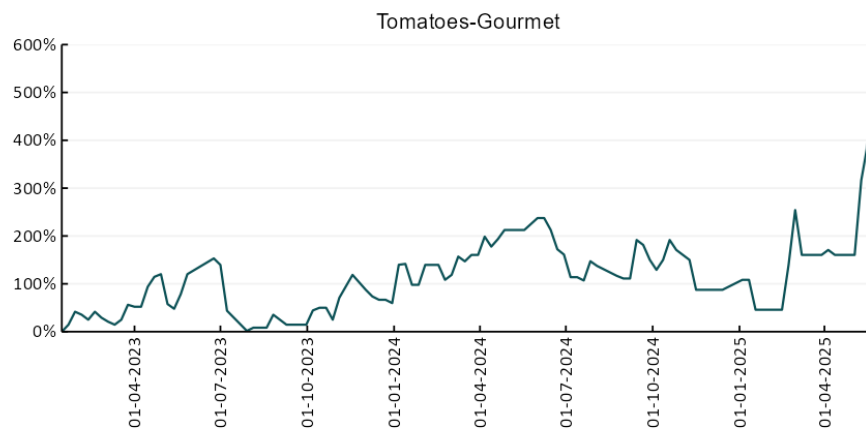
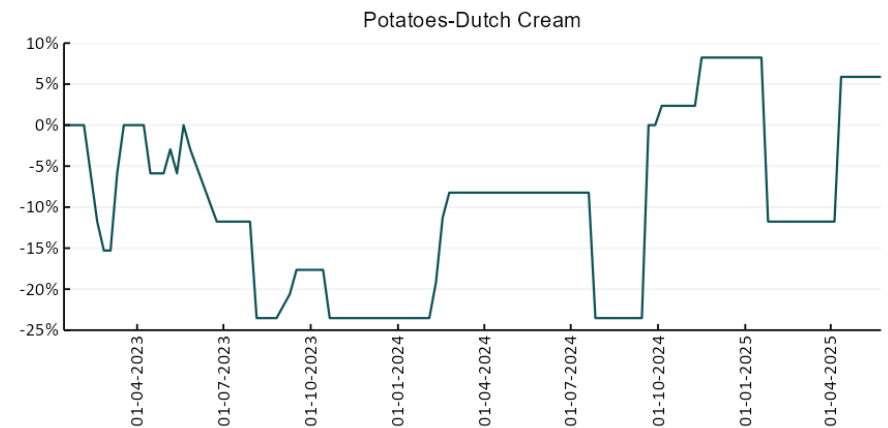
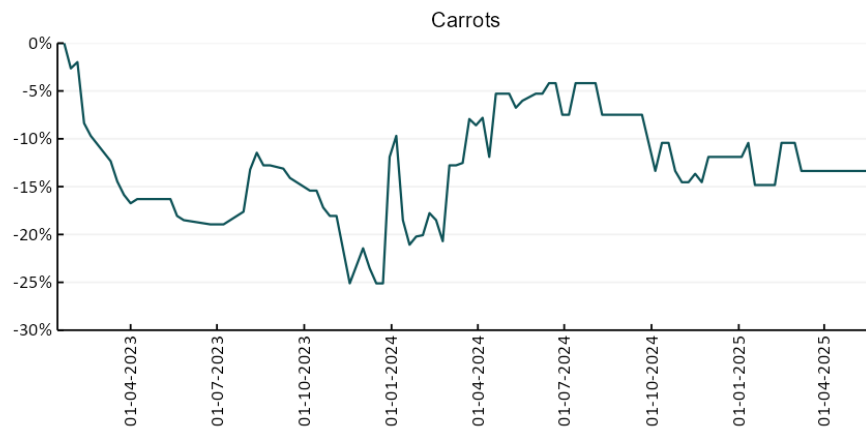


### 3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices



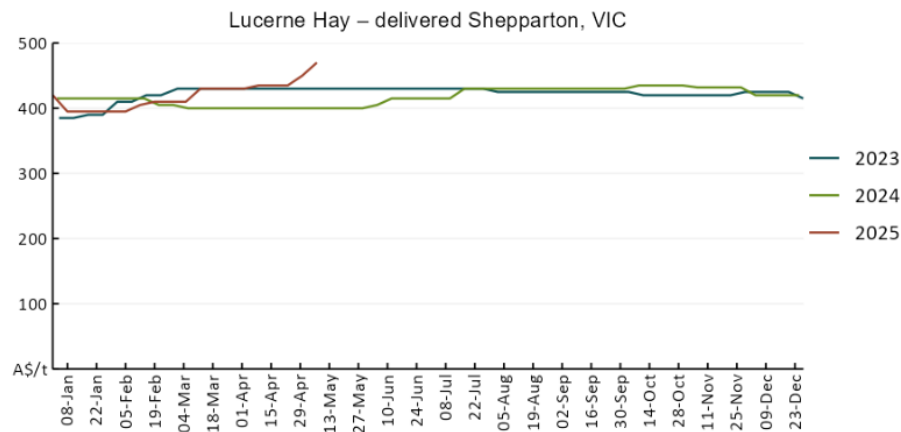
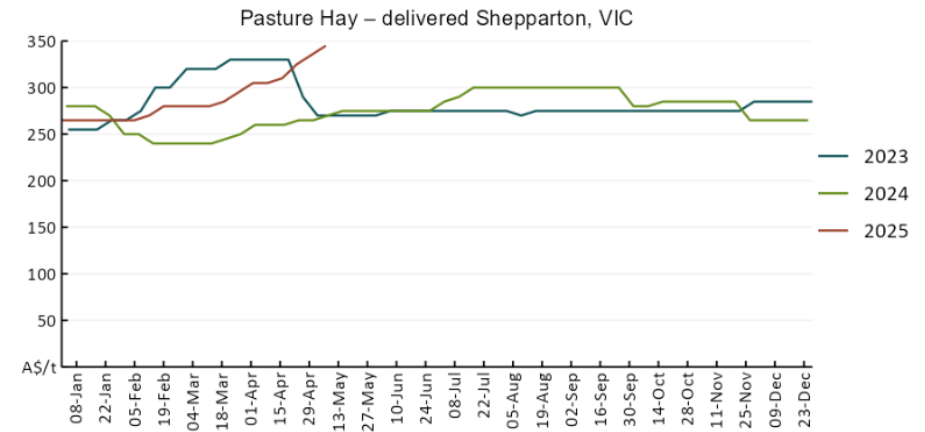
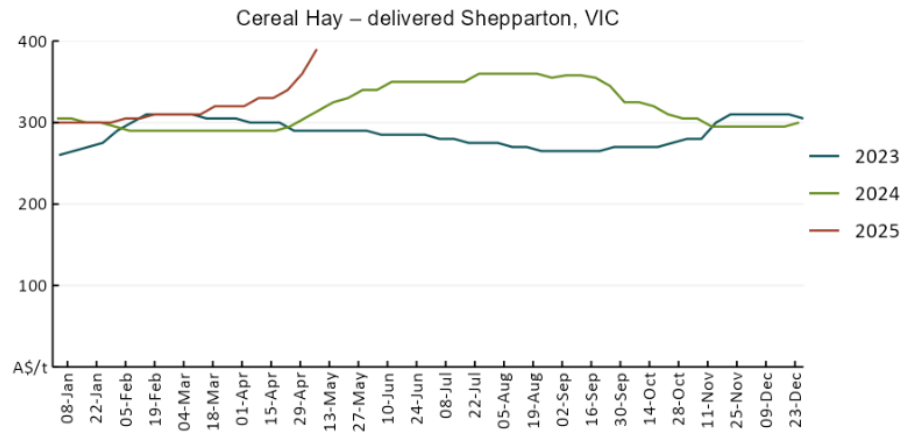
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices







### 3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices



## 4. Data attribution

### Climate

- Bureau of Meteorology
- Weekly rainfall totals: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/)
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: [www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/)
- Temperature anomalies: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp)
- Rainfall forecast: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp)
- Seasonal outlook: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/)
- Climate drivers: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>
- Soil moisture: [www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/)
  - Other
- Pasture growth: [www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/)
- 3-month global outlooks: [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#), [NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#), [EUROBRISA CPTC/INPE](#), [European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts](#), [Hydrometcenter of Russia](#), [National Climate Center](#), [Climate System Diagnosis and Prediction Room \(NCC\)](#), [International Research Institute for Climate and Society](#)
- Global production: <https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/ogamaps/cropmapsandcalendars.aspx>
- Autumn break: Pook et al., 2009, <https://rsmets-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.virtual.anu.edu.au/doi/epdf/10.1002/joc.1833>

### Water

#### Prices

- Waterflow: <https://www.waterflow.io/>
  - Ruralco: <https://www.ruralcowater.com.au/>
  - Bureau of Meteorology:
- Allocation trade: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-markets/mdb/at>
- Storage volumes: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/summary/drainage>
  - Trade constraints:
- Water NSW: <https://www.watnsw.com.au/customer-service/ordering-trading-and-pricing/trading/murrumbidgee>
- Victorian Water Register: <https://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/TradingRules2019/>

### Commodities

- Fruit and vegetables
  - Datafresh: [www.freshstate.com.au](http://www.freshstate.com.au)
  - Pigs
- Australian Pork Limited: [www.australianpork.com.au](http://www.australianpork.com.au)
  - Dairy
- Global Dairy Trade: [www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/](http://www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/)
  - World wheat, canola
- International Grains Council
  - World coarse grains
- United States Department of Agriculture
  - World cotton
  - Cotlook: [www.cotlook.com/](http://www.cotlook.com/)
  - World sugar
- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange
  - Wool
- Australian Wool Exchange: [www.awex.com.au/](http://www.awex.com.au/)
  - Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum, canola and fodder
- Jumbuk Consulting Pty Ltd: <http://www.jumbukag.com.au/>
  - Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export
- Meat and Livestock Australia: [www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market](http://www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market)

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ABARES 2025, Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, 29 May 2025. CC BY 4.0 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25814/5f3e04e7d2503>

ISSN 2652-7561

This publication is available at [https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly\\_update](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web [agriculture.gov.au/abares](http://agriculture.gov.au/abares)

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### **Acknowledgements**

This report was prepared by Holly Beale and Matthew Miller.